



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Old Rad Waste Burial Ground Focus Group

Meeting Record

January 13, 1998
Building 724-7E
Savannah River Site, S.C.

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Environmental Remediation and Waste Management (ER&WM) Subcommittee Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Focus Group met on Wednesday, January 13, 1999, 1:00 p.m. at the Savannah River Site (SRS) at building 724-7E. The purpose of the meeting was to tour the burial ground and seepage area, receive a crosswalk between the Focus Group tasks and the available information at the Site, determine the path forward on the tasks, and assign members to those tasks. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

Karen Patterson, Admin.
Lead
Ann Loadholt
Wade Waters
Ken Goad

Stakeholders

Lee Poe, Tech. Lead
Todd Crawford
Gene Rollins
Julie Corkran, EPA
Ken Feely, EPA
Keehna Frasier, DHEC
Keith Collinsworth,
DHEC
William Wiloughby II
Jerry Devitt
Mike French

DOE/Contractors

Brian Hennessey, DOE
Phillip Prater, DOE
Mike Griffith, WSRC
Don Toddings, BSRI
Tom Rehder, WSRC
John Seaman, SREL
Linn Liles, WSRC
Ed McNamee, BSRI
Sonny Goldston,
WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC

Karen Patterson, Administrative Lead, welcomed those in attendance and asked each of them to introduce themselves. Ms. Patterson reviewed the agenda and then introduced Mike Griffith, WSRC, who took the Focus Group on a tour of the burial ground and seepage area. The tour consisted of a drive by of the burial ground complex and the tritium contaminated seeps from the groundwater under the burial ground.

Arriving back in the conference room, Mr. Griffith distributed a handout of a document list that referenced the tasks. Five boxes of the ten documents on the list were made available to the Focus Group. (Each Task Lead and Jim Moore received a box of the documents.) The document list was reviewed as well as two information documents. The handout included a crosswalk of the nineteen tasks identified by the Focus Group against the source document list. Some comments, questions and answers generated by the discussion are as follows:

- Mr. Poe asked if copies of the same type documents were available for the H Area seepage basin. Mr. Griffith stated that the RCRA Closure Plan would have that information and he would make sure a copy was available.
- Three of the documents, one of which is the Feasibility Study that will be available in March, dealt with future projections.
- A request for early information on the Feasibility Study to help the Focus Group was requested but it appears the information will not be available until March 1 when the document is issued for agency review and Focus Group comments.
- A copy of WSRC report ESH-EMS-98-0271, "Tritium at the Steel Creek Landing", which explained why there were high incidents of tritium at the Steel Creek Landing, was included. It was noted that the report was referenced and requested at the last Focus Group meeting.

Mr. Griffith reviewed a chart showing the Feasibility Study Process. Data that had already been collected is being used for the Feasibility Study. Twenty-four months was shaved off the original schedule that made a March 1 date possible for the completion of the draft study.

Mr. Griffith stated that the Feasibility Study required a 'no action' alternative which was of interest to the Focus Group. He reviewed how, using the model, a determination was made of the peak concentrations at the seep line. Mr. Poe stated that the Feasibility Study limit stopped at the seep line while the Focus Group intended to carry the 'no action' alternative to the nearest user. Mr. Willoughby asked if information would be available to determine tritium content in the aquifer and the answer was yes. Mr. Griffith stated that the schedule for the Feasibility Study resulted in a draft available March 1 with a 90-day regulatory agency review period. After the 90-day review, the site has 60 days to respond to the regulatory agency comments. Therefore, the final Study would be finalized around August. He did say that the public would get a copy of the Study on March 1, the same time as the agencies.

Ed McNamee displayed some large maps of the burial ground and seepage basin that are available to the Focus Group. Mr. McNamee said he would get five additional copies of the maps for each task team.

Mr. Poe, Technical Lead, reviewed some of the parameters of the strawman previously decided upon. It had been decided the Focus Group would look at the risk to people assuming no action. There would be three time periods: the present to 100 years (institutional control period), 100 to 500 years, and beyond 500 years. Land use will need to be determined for the three periods. Scenarios will need to be defined. Two populations would be considered: those drinking water downstream and intruders or interloper. The Focus Group would not be concerned with RCRA or CERCLA regulation requirements, but only with actual risk from surface use and groundwater consumption. Under the 'no action' scenario if unacceptable risks were identified to interlopers or those drinking water, then appropriate action alternatives to mitigate the risks would be identified and recommended.

Mr. Poe stated that he and Ms. Patterson identified four initial tasks, the team leads for the tasks and some members on each team. Individuals were requested to sign up for any team they would like to be on. Julie Corkran, EPA, and Keith Collinworth, DHEC, stated that due to lack of manpower, their agencies could participate in the full Focus Group meetings as well as answer questions or help give reference information but they would not be able to participate in the individual 19 task groups identified. Mr. Collinworth suggested the Focus Group wait until March 1 when the draft Feasibility Study would be distributed to the public. Mr. Collinworth said he was pleased to see the four specific tasks the Focus Group was proposing to work on considered the same points of interest he was concerned with and expected to see in the Feasibility Study. He indicated that most of the questions the Focus Group was trying to answer would be included in that Study. Mr. Poe stated that the group couldn't wait if the Focus Group were going to become knowledgeable about the burial ground and give suggestions/recommendations to the Feasibility Study Report.

After discussion, the Task Leads and members of each team were assigned as follows (members not present will be assigned to a task team):

Task 1

Jerry Devitt, Task Lead
Todd Crawford

Task 3:

Lee Poe, Task Lead
Rod Rimando, DOE
Elmer Wilhite, WSRC

Task 5:

Gene Rollins, Task Lead
Wade Waters
John Seamans, SREL
Jim Cook, WSRC

Task 6:

Karen Patterson, Task Lead
Ann Loadholt
William Willoughby II
Ken Goad
Brian Hennessey, DOE
Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Mike Griffith and Ed McNamee are the technical support from WSRC and will answer questions and help obtain resources needed by the Focus Group to complete their tasks. Mike Griffith is the main contact person.

After discussion, Ms. Patterson set the date for the next full meeting on Wednesday, March 3. At that meeting, each Task Team would report the status of their work. A briefing on the draft Feasibility Study will also be given.

Mr. Poe asked Ms. Corkran the status of the change in drinking water standards as identified in an EPA letter to DOE back in January. Mr. Poe wanted to know if that change would come into play in the Focus Group effort. Ms. Corkran was unsure of the specific letter and requested Mr. Poe send her a copy of the letter and she would respond to it.

With no further questions or discussion, Ms. Patterson once again thanked everyone for their support and attendance and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.